A Novena of Prayer

For the increase and development of the Religious Life.

From the Vigil of S. Andrew to the Feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Those who unite in this Novena are asked:

(1) To be present at Mass each day, and to communicate or to make an act of Spiritual Communion, with the intention of the Novena;

(2) To spend a quarter of an hour each day in prayer for this particular intention;

(3) To add, as they may be able, some exercise of mortification to their prayer, and to give thanks for the grace of God granted us hitherto;

(4) To endeavour to recall the day's intention from time to time during the day, and to be especially watchful in the maintenance of that charity by which we are well pleasing to God.

A Scheme of Prayer

NOV. 29. VIGIL OF S. ANDREW.

Contemplate our Lord as S. Andrew first saw Him, newly come forth from the wilderness of temptation, the Lamb of God, Which beareth the sin of the world.

Pray for response to Him as He looks to-day for disciples who shall follow Him in His way of self-devotion and self-oblation.

Pray for those who, conscious of the truth of the vocation, are awaiting its personal demand.

Pray for those who have heard His invitation, 'Come and ye shall see,' and are now testing their vocation in our Communities.

NOV. 30. S. ANDREW'S DAY.

Contemplate our Lord ordaining S. Andrew to the Apostolate.

Pray for vocations among men, both Priests and Laymen.

Consider the urgent need of Communities of men of Apostolic Spirit to present to the world, whether by word or example, the spectacle of the Christ life in devotion and in service. Pray for the Communities of men already existing, for their guidance and increase.

Recall how our Lord spent the whole night in prayer before He ordained His Apostles; entreat Him now to behold the needs of His Church and to call many to Himself.

DEC. 1.

Contemplate the self-humiliation of the Son of God in His Incarnation.

Pray for the development of the true Religious Spirit in all Communities, for the spirit of Poverty, for the spirit of Chastity, for the spirit of Obedience after His Divine pattern.

Pray for those who are being trained in our Novitiates, and for those who train them that in His Light they may see Light and walk increasingly in the heavenly wisdom of His threefold Counsels.

Pray for the Professed who are tempted to fall short of the spirit of the vows they have taken, that they may turn their temptations into means of purification and aids to perfection.

DEC. 2.

Contemplate the hidden life at Nazareth, its prayer, its purity, its peace, its reverent subjection to authority.

Pray for our young men and women, many of whom are desiring to give their energy and life to the service of God, that they may be guided in their aspirations.

Ask for them the spirit of self-consecration and discipline, courage in making ventures of faith, humility and self-distrust in all they undertake.

DEC. 3. S. FRANCIS XAVIER

Contemplate the Mission of our Lord as He went about all the cities and villages of the Jews, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing all manner of diseases.

Pray for the growth and progressive sanctification of Active Communities of men and women ministering to Christ in His needy and suffering members at home or abroad, and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom in the dark places of the earth.

Pray for Communities working amongst the heathen that they may be strengthened in spirit against the oppression of heathen life around them, and enabled to endure the physical trials of exhausting climate or of loneliness, so that in soul and body they may sanctify themselves wholly for the service to which they are called.

DEC. 4.

Contemplate our Lord in His life of unbroken communion with God amidst the pressure of His outward activities.

Pray for a right understanding in the Church at large of the Religious Life.

Pray for Religious who are in danger of being immersed in activities that they may never forget that their first call is to a life of communion with God and of surrender to His will.

Ask for a spirit of prayer, of hiddenness and of dependence on God in all our Communities.

DEC. 5.

Contemplate our Lord upon the Cross, in the humiliation of His sufferings, His Bodily anguish, His spiritual desolation, offering Himself in reparation for the sins of the whole world.

Pray for those Communities whose members are called to lives of penance and reparation;

That they may persevere in the entire dedication of their lives to union with Christ in His sufferings;

That they may seek only the glory of God;

That their lives of hidden sacrifice may be abundantly fruitful for the needs of the Body of Christ.

DEC. 6. S. NICHOLAS.

Contemplate the Risen Lord in the Upper Chamber breathing upon the Apostles, and saying unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.

Pray for the raising up in our Church of men and women filled with the Holy Ghost who shall be able to draw and guide souls into the deeper ways of prayer and sacrifice.

Pray for Priests who shall be wise and holy Directors of souls.

Pray for men and women who shall be able to build up the Religious Life and found or establish our Communities on secure foundations.

DEC. 7. EVE OF THE CONCEPTION OF THE B.V.M.

Contemplate the vocation of our Lady, S. Mary, the Divine preparation for that vocation, the reverent joy with which she kept its secret in her heart.

Pray for all Communities of men or women professing the Contemplative life, for endurance and fortitude in the needed purifications, for the spirit of hiddenness and silence, for the special endowments of the Holy Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, for due provision for their guidance and direction.

'My soul doth magnify the Lord.'

This paper can be obtained free in any quantities that are desired from the Secretary, Society of St. John the Evangelist, 980 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Mass. Postage should be sent with an order.